



STUDY GUIDE

GOD IS FOR ME: Week 2 9.22.13

[set up]

What has been a recent problem or difficulty that has been plaguing you?

How has God been revealing Himself as faithful in spite of that difficulty?

What help, encouragement or relief has God sent your way through the skills, abilities or gifting of others?

[digging deeper]

Review 1 Samuel 16:14-23. In the second week of our series “God is For Me” in the Life of David, we see Saul, the first king of Israel, being tormented. The interesting part is that the “troubling” spirit is from the Lord (v. 14). Is it a violation of God’s character for Him to send difficulty through spiritual agents into the lives of people? How can we reconcile our understanding of a loving God with a God who can, through His sovereign will, designate harm for some people? (Num. 22:32-34; Judges 9:23; 1 King. 22:19-23; Job 1:6-12; Acts 5:1-3; 1 Cor. 5:1-7; 1 Tim. 1:18-20)

As the servants of Saul observed his torment, they basically designed a form of “music therapy” for him. (Vs. 15-17) It’s not the first time we see this dynamic (see 2 Kings 3:15 with Elisha). Why do you think they came to that conclusion? God made music and it holds great power and influence over us. What do we tend to listen to when we feel sad? Tired? In love? Angry? Motivated? How has God used music, especially worship music, to help you when you are “in difficult times?” (The reading of Psalm. 33 could fit real nicely here if you have the time or interest in reading)

David is God’s provision for Saul’s “music therapy”. We see here that God is strategically maneuvering David into position as the next king of Israel! What were the six descriptions the servants of Saul applied to David (V. 18)? How did they come to those conclusions? Did any surprise you? How do the descriptions that Saul’s servants gave David reveal that God was truly with him?

Oftentimes, others tend to see God’s hand in our lives before we do or better than we do. How we conduct ourselves has far reaching impressions beyond what we are even aware of. How do the following verses relate to what Saul’s servants saw in David and help us keep in mind that others are observing our life each day? (Prov. 22:1, Matt. 5:16; 1 Peter 2:12)

The observation of David’s life led others to identify that God was for him. What do you think others see in your life that would lead them to the conclusion that God is for you?

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David obviously was a skilled and gifted young man. It was through those gifts that he was able to go through the doors God opened. God has allowed us to have skills, abilities and, for the follower of Christ, a spiritual gift as well (Read. Eph. 4:7, Rom. 12:5-6 and 1 Cor. 12 to review spiritual gifts). What doors has God opened for you to use your gifts to serve Him and bless others?

[living it out]

Like Saul, perhaps turning to someone that can sing and play from a heart for God can help you in times of difficulty. You can make a play list of songs that focus on hope and strength in Christ, and have it available for rocky times.

What skills, abilities and spiritual gifts have you identified in your life?

What gifting have other people affirmed in your life?

How are you currently using your skills, abilities and spiritual gifts to invest in the building of God's kingdom and help others discover or grow in new life in Christ?

If you are uncertain of your spiritual gifts and are interested in learning or needing a reminder you can review our teaching series "For the Common Good" from Feb/March 2012 at <http://cvconline.org/video/CommonGood/CommonGoodWeek2.mp4>

You can also take quick and easy spiritual gift assessment at: <http://www.spiritualgiftstest.com/test/adult>

Close this time in prayer. Lift up anything that is a "torment" to you (or those in your LifeGroup) right now. Ask God to remind you seek out Christ-centered music that can sooth your heart and remind you of the hope and strength you have in Christ. Thank God for the reminder that others are always watching, and ask Him to help you live in a way that glorifies Him and helps others come to the conclusion that there is a God that is with you and for you. Ask God for the continued motivation to use the skills, abilities and gifts that He has given you for His service.